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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/483,101 | 01/14/2000 | Kevin J McGrath | 5500-54700 | 7937 |

7590 01/29/2004
Lawrence J Merkel
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P O Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398

EXAMINER

LI, AIMEE J

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2183

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DATE MAILED: 01/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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| APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. |
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| EXAMINER |
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| ART UNIT | PAPER |
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Commissioner for Patents

Please see attached regarding the Reply Brief entered 21 November 2003 and the IDS entered 10 December 2003. Note that the Electronic Information Disclosure Statement was treated as a PTO-1449 form.

Reply Brief

1. The reply brief filed 21 November 2003 has been entered and considered. The application has been forwarded to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for decision on the appeal.

Information Disclosure Statement

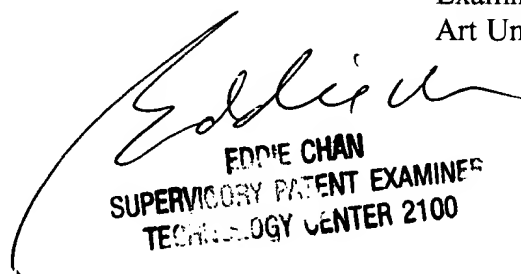
2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 10 December 2003 was filed after the mailing date of the Examiner's Answer on 22 October 2003. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner. Please find a copy of the e-IDS statement attached.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aimee J Li whose telephone number is (703) 305-7596. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T 7:30am-5:00pm.
4. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eddie Chan can be reached on (703) 305-9712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 746-7239.
5. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

January 22, 2004

Aimee J. Li
Examiner
Art Unit 2183


EDDIE CHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100